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Leading the News

Air Pollution

Pruitt Eyes Changes to Air Pollution Permitting Regime

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt signaled a renewed effort to challenge an air pollution permitting program, known as New Source Review, through a task force that is looking to provide "certainty" to industry.

Coal Mining

Climate Change Ruling Could Affect Other Fossil Fuel Projects

Fossil fuel projects nationwide could be on notice after an appeals court ordered the federal government to rethink the climate change impacts of two giant coal mines, environmental lawyers and energy consultants tell Bloomberg BNA.

Wetlands

Coastal States Can Restore Wetlands to Fight Floods, Scientists Say

Coastal communities built atop drained salt marshes and leveled mangrove forests had little natural flood protection from hurricanes Irma and Harvey, exposing the need for better planning against future storms and sea-level rise, marine scientists and environmental engineers told Bloomberg BNA.

News

Chemicals

EU Proposes Extended Exemption for Lead in Electronics

Electrical and electronic equipment manufacturers in the European Union could continue to use lead in a number of applications under draft directives issued by the European Commission.

Climate Change

Biggest Miner Aims to Show Carbon Neutrality Won't Cut Growth

BHP Billiton Ltd., the mining giant that's made the biggest cuts to greenhouse gas emissions among the world's top corporate emitters, has set itself the goal of becoming carbon neutral as new research across diverse industry sectors shows reductions don't have to come at the cost of growth.

Climate Policy

Despite Trump, States Still on Pace to Reach Paris Climate Goals

A coalition of states that vowed to fight global warming is on track to meet its share of U.S. targets set under the Paris Climate Agreement, even as President Donald Trump guts federal environmental efforts.

Climate Regulation

Transportation Officials Can't Suspend Obama Climate Rule: States

California and seven other states asked a federal district court to force the Transportation Department to implement an Obama-era rule requiring state transportation officials to set greenhouse gas targets for national highways.

Coal Mining

Developer of Rare New U.S. Coal Mine to Seek Listing Next Year

Australia's Paringa Resources Ltd., which is building a rare new coal mine in western Kentucky that'll serve power plants, is looking to raise fresh money from investors as part of a push to take market share from U.S. miners.

Coal-Fired Power Plants

Duke Energy 'Hiding' Ash Storage Hazards, Advocates Say

Duke Energy is illegally withholding information about hazards posed by coal ash stored at 10 of its facilities, according to an environmental group that intends to sue over the issue.

Coal-Fired Power Plants

South Africa Sees No Hurry for New Coal, Gas Power Projects

South African programs to add coal and gas power generation from independent providers should wait until policies are updated and the nation's future needs are clearer, said Energy Minister Mmamaloko Kubayi.

Duty to Defend

Insurer May Owe for Stored, Broken Cathode Ray Tubes

An insurer may owe coverage for contamination from cathode ray tubes that broke open while in a storage facility, the Southern District of Ohio ruled (*Olymbec USA, LLC v. Aspen Specialty Ins. Co.*, 2017 BL 329511, S.D. Ohio, No. 16-cv-948, 9/18/17).

Energy

Energy Regulator Tackles Order Backlog, OKs Reliability Rules

Some big-ticket items before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission should wait until the Senate approves two more commissioners, Chairman Neil Chatterjee said Sept. 20 after FERC's first meeting since January.

Energy

Georgia Regulator Supports Nuclear Project With Toshiba Payments

Southern Co. would gain Georgia regulators' support to complete a long-delayed nuclear power project if Toshiba Corp. makes \$3.7 billion in payments it guaranteed to get out of contracts to build the reactors, a state commissioner said.

Energy

Michigan Lawmakers Vow to Undo Ruling on In-State Electric Power

Michigan legislators have promised swift action to eliminate a state agency ruling that will require electricity providers to either produce power or purchase capacity from within the state by 2022.

Enforcement

Former Canadian Mountie Gets 5 Years for Smuggling Narwhal Tusks

A retired Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer will spend 62 months in federal prison for smuggling more than 250 ivory narwhal tusks into the U.S.

International Climate

Airline Carbon Permitting Clash Brewing in the EU

European Union lawmakers are on a collision course over a proposal that would allow utilities and manufacturers to use allowances that currently are earmarked only for airlines in the world's biggest emissions market.

Motor Vehicles

South Korea Carmakers Get One-Year Extension on Emissions Test

The South Korean government and the country's carmakers have struck a deal that will postpone for one year the adoption of a strengthened emissions test procedure for diesel automobiles.

Pesticides

California Loses Bee-Harming Pesticide Court Battle

A California appeals court rejected a state agency's approval of two pesticides, saying the agency broke the state's environmental review law by not fully assessing the chemicals' effects on honeybees and other pollinators.

Product Liability

U.S. Regulators to Start Work on Product Flame Retardant Rule

U.S. consumer safety regulators voted Sept. 20 to convene an advisory panel and begin creating a rule to restrict a whole class of allegedly toxic flame retardants in four product categories.

REACH

EU Toxic Rule Exemption Benefits Outweigh Risks, Regulators Say

The EU's Chemicals Agency says authorizing some exceptions to chemical control rules for plastics, lead in paints, and chrome plating have had positive economic and social benefits that outweigh the additional risks involved.

Renewable Energy

U.K. Brushes Off Trump on Iran with \$720 Million Solar Deal

The U.K. deepened its economic relationship with Iran in a solar deal worth \$720 million less than a day after U.S. President Donald Trump called the Persian Gulf nation a "rogue state" and threat to global security.

Toxic Substances

Swedish Chemicals Agency Finds Potential Risks of BPA Substitutes

Long-term exposure to a variety of bisphenols, including those that may be used as substitutes, could cause hormonal imbalances and related illnesses in humans, Sweden's Chemical Agency said.

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